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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,993	07/24/2001	David M. Vande Berg	01,241	5138

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EXAMINER

LE, UYEN CHAU N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/911,993

Applicant(s)

VANDE BERG, DAVID M.

Examiner

Uyen-Chau N. Le

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-16 and 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Appeal Brief

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 13 October 2004, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New ground(s) of rejection is made in view of the newly cited references to Chapman et al, Blankenship et al, and Röhrig as set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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3. Claims 13-15 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black et al (US 6,494,305) in view of Chapman et al (US 3,651,704) and Blankenship et al (US 6,267,291).

Re claims 13-15 and 20-22: Black et al discloses a mounting apparatus 20 for attaching a transponder 40, which serves as an RF tag, to a conveyor trolley 22 having a wheel 36 with a hub, an outer rim (fig. 3), the mounting apparatus 20 comprising a carcass-tracking apparatus 30, which serves as a block of material, which the transponder 40/RF tag is secured; wherein the block 30 is securable to the trolley 22 (figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 1-34) by screws/threaded fasteners through apertures/threaded fastener receivers [51, 53]; wherein the RF tag/transponder 40 is at least partially imbedded in the block/housing 36 (figs. 4-13; col. 3, lines 35+). The conveyor trolley 22 comprising a metallic body 34, which serves as a strap, having a first and second legs connected by an arch (fig. 3), wherein the wheel 36 is rotatably mounted on an axle between the first and second legs of the strap (fig. 3); a hook 24 extending downward from the first leg for suspending a load therefrom (figs. 2-3; col. 3, lines 1+). The conveyor trolley 22 further having a wheel 36 for engaging a track 28 (fig. 1).

Black et al is silent with respect to a wheel having a hub, an outer rim, and a web connecting the outer rim to the hub, the web having a thickness, which is less than the thickness of the outer rim such that a first annular recess is formed between the hub and the outer rim.

Chapman et al teaches a pulley wheel 20 having a hub 22, a web 24, an outer rim 26, the web 24 having a thickness, which is less than the thickness of the outer rim

26 such that a first annular recess is formed between the hub and the outer rim (figs. 1-3, col. 2, lines 6-13).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a recess formed between the hub and the outer rim of Chapman et al into the conveyor trolley as taught by Black et al in order to provide Black et al with a lighter weight system (i.e., weight reduced due to the web thickness), thus providing an easier handling and conveying system, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Black et al as modified by Chapman et al has been discussed above and further discloses a transponder/RF tag 40 is secured to a block 30, which is mounted directly on the trolley 22 (figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 5-12), but is silent with respect to the block/RF tag is mounted in the annular recess formed between the hub and rim (i.e., directly on the wheel).

Blankenship et al teaches a RFID tag 138 is mounted directly on a surface 134 (i.e., between hub and rim) of a wheel 132A (figs. 10-11; col. 10, lines 8-17).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to rearrange the location of the block having the RF tag of Black et al/Chapman et al from the trolley to the surface/recess between the hub and rim as taught by Blankenship et al in order to provide Black et al/Chapman et al with a more secure system wherein the block is mounted within the recess between the hub and the outer rim of the wheel instead of exposing on the outer surface of the trolley, and thus preventing separation of the tag from the system during conveying and handling.

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Furthermore, such modification would be well within the level of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because employing the RF tag directly on the wheel instead of on the trolley is simply a rearrangement of parts, and therefore an obvious expedient.

4. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black et al as modified by Chapman et al and Blankenship et al as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Röhrig (US 4,717,370). The teachings of Black et al as modified by Chapman et al and Blankenship et al have been discussed above.

Re claim 16: Black et al/Chapman et al/Blankenship et al have been discussed above but is silent with respect to the web comprises a plurality of spokes separated by openings, and the first block is shaped to extend into one of the openings between the spokes.

Röhrig teaches pulley 1 having rim 3, hub 4, ribs/spokes 6 and dampening element 5, which serves as a first block disposed one of the openings between the ribs/spokes 6 (fig. 2; col. 3, lines 13-36).

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the web of Black et al/Chapman et al/Blankenship et al to have a plurality of spokes and openings as taught by Röhrig in order to provide Black et al/Chapman et al/Blankenship et al with a lighter weight system (i.e., weight reduced due to the web thickness), thus providing an easier handling and conveying system, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 17-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of records to Black et al, Chapman et al, Blankenship et al, Röhrig and all other cited references, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific structure or the method of a conveyor trolley comprising, among other things, the first block is mounted in the first recess by a clamping member seated in the second recess and secured to the first block by a fastener such that the first block and the clamping member abut opposite sides of at least one of the spokes with the fastener extending through the one opening as set forth in the claims combination.

7. Claim 23 is allowed.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of records to Black et al, Chapman et al, Blankenship et al, Röhrig and all other cited references, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific structure or the method of attaching an RF tag to a conveyor trolley having a wheel with a hub, an outer rim, and a web connecting the hub to the outer rim, the web comprising a plurality of spokes with openings formed there between comprising, among other things, placing a clamping member in the second recess

opposite the block; connecting the clamping member to the block with a threaded fastener extending through one of the openings in the web; tightening the threaded fastener to draw the block and the clamping member together and against the spokes as set forth in the claims combination.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Newly cited references to Chapman et al, Blankenship et al, and Röhrig have been used in the new ground rejection to further meet the limitation of the claimed invention (i.e., the RF tag is mounted in a recess formed between a hub and rim of a conveyor trolley wheel).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The patents to Cappotto (US 3957150 A); Ohhashi et al (US 4548592 A); Weiss et al (US 4490128A); and Hallerback (US 4600400 A) are cited as of interest and illustrate a similar structure to an apparatus and method for mounting an RF tag on a conveyor trolley.

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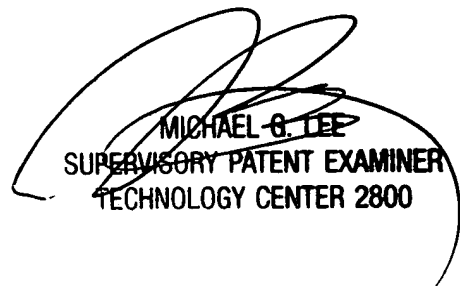
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uyen-Chau N. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2397. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri. 5:30AM-2:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Uyen-Chau N. Le
June 25, 2005



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